

October 24, 2000
175 Urquhart Road
Scenery Hill, PA 15360

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U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

Re: Docket #98P-0151/CP1

Gentlemen:

This letter is urging you to grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals, docket number 98P-0151/CP1.

Animals who are too sick or injured to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. Additionally, they pose an increased risk for bacterial contamination.

It is impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains.....grossly inhumane practices which cause additional injuries, ranging from broken bones to death.

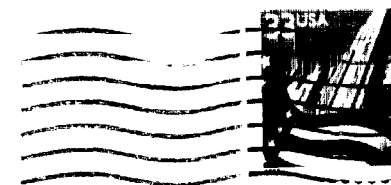
Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

There is a growing consensus that the marketing and slaughter of downed animals causes intolerable animal suffering and poses unnecessary risks to human health. In this time of moving toward a more humane society, should animals be treated with cruelty and callous disregard? Or with compassion and respect? The choice seems clear enough.

Sincerely,


Nancy Baumgardner

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